

2010 Alexandria Elks Lodge 758 Memorial Day

By PER Jim Estep

We commemorate the lives of all of our departed members who have gone on since the last service in the previous year. PER **Frank Carey** served as Chaplain, **Lani Cadow** served as Loyal Knight, **Allen Nightingale** as Leading Knight, **Marty Caron** as ER, **Robert Eifert**, served as Lecturing Knight, **Karen Bundy-DeLap** (our Lodge Treasurer) was Lodge Esquire and **Laurie Johnson** served as Lodge Secretary. **Susan Jennings** helped as the official photographer.



The Altar was set with the addition of five candles – a number symbolizing the departed. The service began with the dramatic draping of the “**Empty Chair**” by **Karen Bundy-DeLap** accompanied by the rendition of this song by Tennessee Ernie Ford. Each candle was lit in the order of departure as Laurie called the Absent Members’ names three times. The Elks Memorial Bell, donated by individual PERs and dedicated to Sonny Edwards, in our Heritage corner was struck by **Jim Estep** following every mention of a name. When the bell first struck, the family member or friend lighting the candle approached and stood before the Altar. When the name was called again, the bell was struck again and the candle was lit. Upon the final calling of our departed member’s name and striking of the bell, the candle lighter returned to his or her chair.

The chairs deposited their gifts upon the altar; Forget-me-nots, Amaranth and Ivy, and several eulogies were presented by members. There was music, again this year, during the entire service that was choreographed and played by **PER Don DeLap**.



Refreshments were served and, once again, the great beauty of an Elks Memorial Day continues to impress.

“To Our Absent Members”